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2 MR. HARDEMAN: Good afternoon. My name's Jim
3 Hardeman, and I manage the environmental radiation
4 program of the Georgia Department of Natural
5 Resources. Among my duties is the management of
6 the state-level radiologic emergency response
7 capability. In that capacity and through national
8 and regional organizations I have had the
9 opportunity to work directly with the Department
10 of Energy on a variety of issues including the
11 transportation of radioactive materials. I
12 appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on
13 behalf of the Department of Natural Resources on
14 the issues of transportation and disposal of spent
15 nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

1 16 The State of Georgia has long been supportive
17 of the central repository as the safest and most
18 effective means of properly managing the country's
19 spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive
20 waste. Many nuclear plants around the country,
21 including one here in Georgia, as we've already
22 heard, Plant Hatch, are running out of temporary
23 storage capacity in their spent fuel pools and
24 have had to develop additional on-site storage
25 facilities. We strongly support continuation of

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1 efforts to license, construct and operate a
2 repository in an expeditious manner.

3 As I mentioned earlier, I personally have had
4 the opportunity, as have some of my colleagues
5 from both the emergency management agency and the
6 Georgia Public Service Commission, to work with
7 the Department of Energy through both national and
8 regional organizations in the development of
9 plans, protocols and procedures designed to ensure
10 the safe, uneventful transportation of spent
11 nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste and
12 to ensure the availability of emergency response
13 resources at the state and local levels. This
14 effort is ongoing, and while we have seen
15 progress, we still have several concerns regarding
16 transportation. Many of these concerns we have
17 noted in our previous comments on other DOE EIS
18 documents, for example, as Representative Orrock
19 noted in her testimony, the EIS document related
20 to the disposal or disposition of the surplus
21 weapons-grade plutonium.

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continued on Transportation of spent nuclear fuel and
23 page 3 high-level waste from the various points of
24 generation to the national repository is an area
25 that's of keen interest to Georgia. Public

1 acceptance of transportation of spent fuel in the
2 U.S. is not a given, as media reports of recent
3 upcoming shipments will attest. Public acceptance
4 of the risks of transportation of spent nuclear
5 fuel and high-level waste, however small or large
6 they are or are perceived to be, is critical to
7 the success of this program. Strong, credible
8 education and public outreach program is essential
9 to achieving some measure of public acceptance for
10 this program, as is the existence of knowledgeable
11 emergency response personnel at a state and local
12 level, armed with both the training and equipment
13 which would be required to respond to a
14 transportation incident involving spent nuclear
15 fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

16 We're pleased to see that the Department of
17 Energy has taken some of the suggestions from our
18 comments on previous EIS documents and
19 incorporated them into this document, particularly
20 as relates to the analysis of potential
21 transportation accidents. As we've noted in the
22 past, however, explicit treatment of post-accident
23 protection measures such as interdiction of
24 contaminated properties and embargo of
25 contaminated crops would make the document

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continued

1 stronger and provide state and local officials and
2 members of the public with a more complete picture
3 of the radiological consequences of major
4 transportation accidents. As we have also
5 commented previously, we would like to see
6 recovery issues such as decontamination, reentry
7 and return explicitly addressed in the EIS.

8 Thank you again for the opportunity to
9 provide comments on this issue. We plan to submit
10 additional written comments prior to the close of
11 the comment period.

12 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you.

13 MR. LAWSON: Thank you, sir. The next
14 speaker is Stanley Porter.

15 MR. PARKER: Parker.

16 MR. LAWSON: Parker?

17 MR. PARKER: Yes, sir.

18 MR. LAWSON: Sorry. Stanley Parker, Bob
19 Fulkerson and then Erica Frank.